(b) if so, the guidelines for the financial assistance;

(c) how many States have received such assistance;

(d) whether any proposal for financial assistance from the State Government of Kerala has been received; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, envisaged financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for offering various vocational courses in their schools at higher secondary stage including courses on Hotel Management and Catering Technology. However, no assistance has been given to any State/UT since 2007-08. No proposal for financial assistance has been received from the State Government of Kerala during 2008-09.

Establishment of model schools

†1124. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to establish model schools in States by Government;

(b) if so, the number of proposed schools, State-wise and the basis on which this number has been determined; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The scheme envisages setting up of 6000 model schools at the block level at the rate of one school per block. The first phase of the scheme to set up 2500 schools by the State Governments in educationally backward blocks was launched in November, 2008.

Guidelines regarding refund of fees

1125. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines issued by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) regarding refund of fees to candidates withdrawing from the courses run by the technical institutions approved by it;

(b) whether Government is aware that large number of colleges refuse to refund fees and confiscate it when students seek withdrawal from the courses run by them; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the details of corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken for preventing such commercialization of education system?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.